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14 June 1951

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, NATIONAL ESTIMATES

FROM: Chief, Estimates Staff

SUBJECT: Initiation of a National Intelligence Study on "Soviet  
Military Assistance to the Chinese Communists"

1. In the course of drafting a number of NIE's, the need has become increasingly apparent for a detailed study and rigorous analysis of certain key problems that would provide a firmer basis than now exists for general estimative conclusions. To be of maximum effectiveness, these studies must be more limited in scope and more factual in content than is customary or appropriate for NIE's. O/NE does not have the staff or intelligence resources to prepare such studies. O/NE can, however, indicate when this kind of intelligence would be vital in making sound NIE's, and must devise some way of insuring that the studies are made by the appropriate IAC Agencies.

2. As a concrete example, it has become increasingly clear that a sound estimate of the probable Soviet and Chinese Communist courses of action in the Far East cannot be made without a detailed study of available intelligence on the extent and character of Soviet military assistance to the Chinese Communists. Estimates Staff analysts are confident that the intelligence materials exist for reaching reasonably sound conclusions on this subject and that, if systematically analyzed, this intelligence would throw considerable light on the emerging pattern of events in the Far East. From the relatively limited sampling of information already available, I should guess that Soviet military aid is designed primarily toward building up a long range Chinese Communist military potential and only secondarily toward the short range problem of Korea. Regardless of whether this guess is right, any solid information on this point would be most critical in our general estimating.

3. A staff study on this subject would have to be prepared on an all-source basis and should present the evidence supporting the generalizations arrived at. Where appropriate, the reliability of the evidence also should be indicated in such a way as to distinguish between areas where we have firm evidence and where we are proceeding on the basis of deduction or supposition.

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4. I recommend, therefore, that a National Intelligence Study on "Soviet Military Assistance to the Chinese Communists" be prepared by the IAC Agencies, with ID taking primary responsibility for the work. Attached as Enclosure "A" is a draft outline indicating the main points to be covered in such a study. If necessary, this study could be called an SIE, but it would be preferable to give the research analysts a free hand to produce a much more detailed report than any which we could conveniently coordinate in our usual procedures or publish as national intelligence. Since it probably would be advisable for the Director of Central Intelligence to approve this project and initiate it in the IAC, I am attaching a draft memorandum (Enclosure "B") for you to send to the Director.



RAY S. CLINE

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Attachments:

- Enclosure "A"
- Enclosure "B"

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